

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 020280

12

ORIGIN IO-14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

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AMCONSUL HAMBURG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY WARSAW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, IMCO

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PAGE 02 STATE 020280

SUBJECT: IMCO: COUNCIL AND MSC EXPANSION

1. ASSEMBLY OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL MARITIME CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION (IMCO) DECIDED IN NOVEMBER TO CONVENE AD HOC WORKING GROUP AT LONDON HEADQUARTERS FEBRUARY 4-8 TO STUDY POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS TO IMCO CONVENTION TO PROVIDE FOR CHANGES IN SIZE AND COMPOSITION OF IMCO COUNCIL AND MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE (MSC). DECISION TO DO SO, WHICH PROBABLY WOULD HAVE EMERGED FROM LAST ASSEMBLY IN ANY EVENT, WAS TAKEN IN LIGHT OF FORMAL PROPOSAL BY NETHERLANDS TO EXPAND BY THREE SEATS PRESENT SIX-MEMBER CATEGORY IN IMCO COUNCIL ELECTIONS RESERVED IN EFFECT FOR MEMBER STATES NOT HAVING MAJOR SHIPPING INTERESTS, AND TO MAKE PRESENT 16-MEMBER MSC OPEN TO ALL. TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE NETHERLANDS PROPOSAL IS ONLY FORMAL PROPOSAL WHICH WILL BE BEFORE WORKING GROUP.

2. IMCO COUNCIL AS PRESENTLY CONSTITUTED IS COMPRISED OF THREE CATEGORIES: (A) 6 NATIONS REPRESENTING MAJOR SHIP OPERATING COUNTRIES, (B) 6 NATIONS REPRESENTING THE MAJOR TRADING COUNTRIES, AND (C) 6 NATIONS PROVIDING GEOGRAPHIC BALANCE TO THE COUNCIL. (NETHERLANDS PROPOSAL WOULD ADD THREE NEW MEMBERS TO CATEGORY C.) MSC IS NOW COMPOSED OF 16 MEMBERS, AND FUNCTIONS AS A TECHNICAL COMMITTEE WITH A

GOOD RECORD OF EFFICIENCY AND ACCOMPLISHMENT. MSC ELECTIONS ARE CONDUCTED IN THREE CATEGORIES, FAIRLY ANALAGOUS TO THOSE EMPLOYED IN ELECTIONS TO COUNCIL, AND AS INTENDED CONSEQUENCE REPRESENTATIVES OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES PREDOMINATE. (THIS HAS ENCOURAGED VIEW THAT IMCO IS OPERATED AS "PRIVATE CLUB OF SHIPOWNERS," AND NETHERLANDS PROPOSAL TO OPEN MSC TO ALL APPEARS TO BE INTENDED TO ERASE THIS IMAGE.)

3. US HAS BEEN QUERIED INFORMALLY BY REPRESENTATIVES OF NUMBER OF ADDRESSEE HOST GOVERNMENTS CONCERNING US VIEWS ON EXPANSION QUESTION. AS WE ARE ANXIOUS TO SEE REASONABLE SOLUTION DEVELOPED AS HARMONIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE WITHIN WORKING GROUP, AND ENACTMENT OF ITS RECOMMENDATION AT EXTRAORDINARY ASSEMBLY NEXT OCTOBER WITH MINIMUM CONTROVERSY, ADDRESSEE EMBASSIES SHOULD CONVEY FOLLOWING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 020280

US VIEWS TO APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES OF HOST GOVERNMENT PRIOR TO DEPARTURE OF DELEGATIONS FOR FEBRUARY 4-8 MEETING. IN DOING SO, EMBASSIES SHOULD STRESS THAT US IS TRYING TO BE RESPONSIVE TO ENQUIRIES IT HAS RECEIVED, AND HOPES ADVANCE INFORMATION ABOUT US THINKING MIGHT FACILITATE HARMONIZATION OF POSITIONS, WHICH WE FEEL WILL HAVE TO BE ACHIEVED EARLY IN MEETING IF FULLY SATISFACTORY RECOMMENDATION IS TO EMERGE FROM IT. TALKING POINTS

FOLLOW:

4. MARITIME INTERESTS IN FUNCTIONING OF IMCO ARE WELL SERVED IN NARROW SENSE BY PRESENT COUNCIL/MSC ARRANGEMENTS. WE SHARE VIEW EXPRESSED BROADLY AT LAST ASSEMBLY, HOWEVER, THAT SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH IN IMCO MEMBERSHIP COUPLED WITH PROVISIONS FOR ELECTIONS BY CATEGORIES HAS PRODUCED NEED FOR SOME ADJUSTMENT IN REPRESENTATION IN PRINCIPAL IMCO ORGANS. AT SAME TIME WE ARE OF VIEW THAT PRESENT CATEGORIES OF REPRESENTATION MUST BE PRESERVED IF IMCO IS TO CONTINUE TO PERFORM ITS IMPORTANT ROLE EFFECTIVELY.

5. SUBSTANTIAL EXPANSION OK COUNCIL COULD IN OUR VIEW UNDERCUT REQUIRED DEGREE OF INVOLVEMENT OF MAJOR SHIPPING AND MARITIME SERVICED STATES WHICH WE REGARD AS ESSENTIAL FOR IMCO EFFECTIVENESS. FOR SAME REASON, WE FEEL PRESENT THREE CATEGORIES AS SUCH MUST BE PRESERVED.

6. WE FEEL THAT WORKING GROUP SHOULD ALSO GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR EXPANDING MSC ON SCALE COMPATIBLE WITH COUNCIL EXPANSION.

7. WE ARE HOPEFUL WORKING GROUP WILL FIND IT POSSIBLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON SINGLE, DEFINITE RECOMMENDATION FOR BOTH COUNCIL AND MSC, AND THAT IT CAN BE TRANSMITTED TO MEMBER STATES WITH LEGISLATIVE HISTORY OF UNANIMOUS OR VERY BROAD APPROVAL BY MEMBERS OF WORKING GROUP. WE WOULD PREFER TO AVOID PRESENTATION OF ALTERNATIVE POSSIBILITIES TO MEMBER STATES, AND MORE DIFFICULT TASK THIS WOULD POSE FOR EXTRAORDINARY ASSEMBLY IN OCTOBER.

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PAGE 04 STATE 020280

8. EMBASSIES SHOULD REPORT TO DEPARTMENT, INFO LONDON, ANY REACTIONS ELICITED BY DEMARCHES.

9. EMBASSY LONDON MAY AT ITS DISCRETION REVIEW FOREGOING WITH IMCO SECRETARIAT.

10. FOR THE HAGUE: EMBASSY SHOULD USE ITS DISCRETION ON HOW TO BEST APPROACH HOST GOVERNMENT ON THIS MATTER. KISSINGER

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